GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1350
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have planned to make effective safety nets to protect endangered wildlife wealth like tigers in the forests, in the Zoos and National Park;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any policy in this regard after the tragedy in Nandankanan and Hyderabad;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether offenders of Nandankanan and Hyderabad have been identified and would be given exemplary punishments; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) No Sir.

(b)&(c) Central Government has already adopted a new Policy on zoos. The policy envisages that no new zoo should be set up unless sustained availability of resources for effective management of zoo is guaranteed. All the animals in zoos are to be provided conditions congenial to their health. Minimum standards of upkeep and healthcare as per the guidelines provided under the recognition of zoo rules are to be maintained. The Ministry after Nandankanan tragedy has got a rapid evaluation of all the zoos done. The strategy adopted by the Ministry in this regard is closure of zoos which have no potential to improve and assisting the remaining zoos to come up to the required standards.

(d)&(e) In Nandankanan Zoo both Director and Veterinary Officer have been transferred and show cause notices have been issued to all the concerned officers to explain their inability to take timely action to check the spread of disease. In connection with the killing of a Caiman in Nandankanan Zoo, after enquiry, the animal keeper has been dismissed from the service and a criminal case has been filed against him separately.

Regarding the killing of tigress in Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, State Government of Andhra Pradesh has handed over the case to State C.I.D. for the inquiry and has also put four employees of the zoo under suspension.